

13 June 1947.

SUGGESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
AGENCY SECTION OF THE ARMED SERVICES UNIFICATION BILL

1. Civilian versus Military Director: It would seem preferable to state that the Director should be chosen "from civilian or military life by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate," thus leaving it to the President to determine whether he wishes to appoint a civilian or a military Director. The primary problem in this connection is concerned with the continuity of the Director's tenure rather than the branch from which the incumbent comes. The present Director has indicated a desire to remain in this position for the duration of his Naval career. However, it would work a definite hardship on a military man if it were necessary for him to retire from the service in assuming this position unless the statute called for a specific term of years for the Director's tenure. Failure to establish such tenure would place the Director at the mercy of those who might desire to oust him for purely political reasons.

On the other hand, the question of tenure of office may well have been omitted from the proposed legislation in order that the President might have a free hand in nominating a Director of his own choosing, as he does in the case of other executive positions in the Government. In the early formative stages of the development of this Agency, it may well be considered preferable to have a military Director who is conversant with the problems and personnel of the armed services, on whom so much reliance must be placed for intelligence information and cooperation.

2. The Position of CIA in the Governmental Structure: It would appear best to maintain the Central Intelligence Agency in the position that the bill contemplates it will occupy — that is, under the National Security Council. On purely theoretical grounds, it would, of course, be preferable to report to one individual rather than to a group. However, as a matter of practical operations, it would seem to be best to place it under the Council, so that the Secretaries of State, National Defense, War, Air, and the Navy — who will be among the prime users of the intelligence produced — would not have the feeling that the Director is continually skirting them into the back door of the White House. It is felt that working with the Council in the manner contemplated will produce the best cooperation from the Departments concerned.